In the Specification:

(1) At page 7, insert the amended paragraph below to replace the last paragraph after line 25.

When the orthosis is worn by a patient, the patient's foot and lower leg bias the rib (against its natural resilience) to increase its radius of curvature so that it matches that of the patient's foot and lower leg. Increasing the rib's radius of curvature causes the rib, by virtue of its inherent resilience, to exert a compressive force on the dorsum of the patient's foot and this force allows the rib to firmly grip the patient's foot.

In the Specification:

(2) At page 12, insert the amended paragraph below to replace the first paragraph beginning at line 1.

To make it even easier for the patient to put on and take off the orthosis, the sock-like structure of any embodiment disclosed herein may be formed with an insertion slit (not shown) running down the back of the patient's lower leg toward the ankle. The insertion slit can be closed, once the patient has put on the device, by any of a number of different mechanisms. For example, one side of the slit could be formed with a tab, the underside of which is provided with one part of a two-part mechanical hook-and-loop fastener (such as ~~Velco®~~ Velcro®, for example), the other part of the fastener being secured to the sock-like structure. As an alternative, either side of the slit could be provided with a series of eyes which can be closed by means of a lace threaded therethrough.

In the Specification:

(3) Replace the current Abstract with the amended Abstract provided below after the title "Abstract:".

An ~~embodiment of the invention provides an~~ ankle-foot orthosis that comprises: an elastic structure (50) formed of contiguous first (52) and second (54) tubular members, ~~said~~ the second tubular member being set at an angle to the first tubular member to define, at least in use, a generally L-shaped cavity (56) configured to accept and fit closely about the foot and ankle of a patient; and a rib (58) which is permanently bonded or otherwise permanently affixed to a region of the structure which overlies the dorsum of the patient's foot in use, ~~said~~ the rib being formed of a flexible material that has a resilience appropriate for resisting the particular degree of plantarflexion experienced by the patient.